IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 23 - 25, 45, 47, 49 and 50 to read as follows:

23. (Amended) A digital data management method, comprising the steps of:

encrypting digital data to produce encrypted digital data supplied to a user, using a utilization permit key pre-defined to permit at least one of displaying, editing, storing, copying, and transferring of said digital data;

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using a display permit key, which is said utilization permit key permitting displaying of said digital data, and displaying said decrypted digital data;

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using an edit permit key, which is said utilization permit key permitting editing of said digital data, and editing said decrypted digital data;

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using a storage permit key, which is said utilization permit key permitting storing of said digital data, encrypting again said decrypted digital data to encrypted digital data by using said storage permit key, and storing said encrypted digital data;

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using a copy permit key, which is said utilization permit key permitting copying of said digital data, encrypting again said decrypted digital data to encrypted digital data by using said copy permit key, and copying said encrypted digital data; and

decrypting said encrypted digital data to decrypted digital data by using a transfer

permit key, which is said utilization permit key permitting transferring of said digital data, encrypting

again said decrypted digital data to encrypted digital data by using said transfer permit key, and

transferring said encrypted digital data.

2
24. (Amended) A digital data management method according to claim 23, wherein said

utilization permit key includes a crypt key specific to said digital data.

3
25. (Amended) A digital data management method according to claim 23, wherein said

utilization permit key includes a crypt key not specific to said digital data.

23
45. (Amended) A digital data management method according to claim 41, wherein said

copyright information is added in a copyright management program.

25
47. (Amended) A digital data management method according to claim 41, wherein said

copyright information must be present in order to use said digital data.

27
49. (Amended) A digital data management method according to claim 47, wherein said

digital data, excluding said copyright information, is encrypted again to said encrypted digital data

by using said utilization permit key.

28

~~50.~~ (Amended) A digital data management method according to claim ~~47,~~ **25** wherein said

digital data, excluding said copyright information, is encrypted again to said encrypted digital data

by a copyright management program.